

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously presented) A method of forming a semiconductor structure, comprising:

providing a semiconductor substrate, wherein  
a first oxide layer is on said substrate,  
a first sacrificial layer is on said first oxide layer, wherein said first  
sacrificial layer comprises an oxide, and  
a first nitride layer is on said first sacrificial layer; followed by  
forming an isolation region in said substrate, wherein said forming an  
isolation region comprises:

etching a trench into said substrate; and  
filling said trench with said oxide;  
wherein a second sacrificial layer is between said first sacrificial layer and  
said first oxide layer,

wherein said first sacrificial layer comprises silicon oxide, said second  
sacrificial layer comprises silicon nitride, said isolation region comprises an oxide, and  
said substrate comprises silicon.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

removing said first nitride layer;  
removing said first sacrificial layer; and  
removing said second sacrificial layer.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said first and second sacrificial  
layers each have a thickness less than the thickness of said first nitride layer.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein

said first sacrificial layer has a thickness of 10 to 250 Å; and  
said second sacrificial layer has a thickness of 10 to 500 Å.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 33, further comprising, prior to said forming said isolation region:

forming said first oxide layer on said substrate by thermal oxidation;  
forming said second sacrificial layer on said first oxide layer by CVD;  
forming said first sacrificial layer on said second sacrificial layer by CVD;

and

forming said first nitride layer on said first sacrificial layer by CVD.

9. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising implanting ions in said substrate through said first oxide layer.

10. (Original) A method of forming a semiconductor device, comprising:

forming a semiconductor structure by the method of claim 9; and  
forming a semiconductor device from said semiconductor structure.

11. (Original) A method of forming an electronic device, comprising:

forming a semiconductor device by the method of claim 10; and  
forming an electronic device, comprising said semiconductor device.

12-17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously presented) A method of forming a semiconductor device, comprising:

forming a semiconductor structure by the method of claim 3; and  
forming a semiconductor device from said semiconductor structure.

19. (Original) A method of forming an electronic device, comprising:

forming a semiconductor device by the method of claim 18; and  
forming an electronic device, comprising said semiconductor device.

20-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said forming an isolation region comprises depositing an oxide onto said first nitride layer and into a trench adjacent to said first nitride layer, said first sacrificial layer, and said first oxide layer.

24-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) A method of forming a semiconductor structure, comprising:

providing a semiconductor substrate, wherein  
a first oxide layer is supported by said substrate,  
a first sacrificial layer is supported by said first oxide layer, wherein  
said first sacrificial layer comprises an oxide, and  
a first nitride layer is supported by said first sacrificial layer;

followed by

forming an isolation region in said substrate, wherein said forming an isolation region comprises:

etching a trench into said substrate; and  
filling said trench with said oxide,  
wherein a second sacrificial layer is between said first sacrificial layer and said first oxide layer.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously presented) A method of forming a semiconductor device, comprising:

forming a semiconductor structure by the method of claim 27; and  
forming a semiconductor device from said semiconductor structure.

30. (Previously presented) A method of forming an electronic device, comprising:  
forming a semiconductor device by the method of claim 29; and  
forming an electronic device, comprising said semiconductor device.

31-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently amended) A method of forming a semiconductor structure, comprising:

~~forming an isolation region in providing~~ a semiconductor substrate;<sub>1</sub>  
wherein

a first oxide layer is on said substrate,

a first sacrificial layer is on said first oxide layer, wherein said first  
sacrificial layer comprises an oxide, and

a first nitride layer is on said first sacrificial layer; followed by  
forming an isolation region in said substrate, wherein said forming an  
isolation region comprises:

etching a trench into said substrate; and

filing said trench with said oxide;

wherein a second sacrificial layer is between said first sacrificial layer and  
said first oxide layer,

wherein said first sacrificial layer comprises silicon oxide, said second  
sacrificial layer comprises silicon nitride, said isolation region comprises an oxide, and  
said substrate comprises silicon, and

said first and second sacrificial layers each have a thickness less than the  
thickness of said first nitride layer.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein

said first sacrificial layer has a thickness of 10 to 250 Å; and

said second sacrificial layer has a thickness of 10 to 500 Å.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising, prior to  
said forming said isolation region:

forming said first oxide layer on said substrate by thermal oxidation;

forming said second sacrificial layer on said first oxide layer by CVD;

forming said first sacrificial layer on said second sacrificial layer by CVD;  
and

forming said first nitride layer on said first sacrificial layer by CVD.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein a second sacrificial layer is between said first sacrificial layer and said first oxide layer.

37. (New) A method of forming a semiconductor structure, comprising:

providing a semiconductor substrate, wherein

a first oxide layer is supported by said substrate,

a first sacrificial layer is supported by said first oxide layer, wherein  
said first sacrificial layer comprises an oxide, and

a first nitride layer is supported by said first sacrificial layer;

followed by

forming an isolation region in said substrate, wherein said forming an  
isolation region comprises:

etching a trench into said substrate; and

filling said trench with said oxide,

wherein a second sacrificial layer is between said first sacrificial layer and  
said first oxide layer, and

said first sacrificial layer is in contact with said first nitride layer.